Pollution at sea-coasts

†1006. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of samples collected by Coastal Ocean Monitoring & Prediction System to test the increasing pollution at the sea-coasts;

(b) at which places proofs of increase or decrease in pollution have been found through the tests;

(c) whether assistance has been sought from the National Environment Engineering Institute (NEEI), to control environmental pollution; and

(d) the details of measures taken by Government to control environmental pollution in these coastal areas?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) During the last three years 496 samples have been collected in the 0—25 kms sector at several locations to check the level of pollutants. Out of this 31 locations have been selected for intensive monitoring wherein data on 25 pollution and related parameters are being collected for 2-3 seasons.

(b) The results obtained have indicated clearly the areas of clean seawater quality, the areas of "no concern", areas that need intensive monitoring and the areas of "concern". The data collected during the last three years have indicated that the sea off 2 kms from the coast is clean, except in the case of Mumbai, where the sea beyond 5 km is clean.

An analysis of data collected under this programme so far reveals that the levels of pollutants are close to clean waters in areas of "no concern". In the potential areas of pollution *i.e.*, areas where definite source of pollution is present, decrease of Dissolved Oxygen was found in Hazira, Bassein and Mangalore. In Porbandar, large

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

variations in ammonia were noted. High levels of bacterial concentrations were found in Sandheads, West Bengal. In Alang, large fluctuations in petroleum hydrocarbons were noted. The pollution in the other areas did not show a definite trend but in the following areas of "concern", the status of increase and decrease of pollution is as follows:

In Veraval harbour, the water quality has not improved as indicated by nil levels of dissolved oxygen during low tide.

In Maharashtra, though the domestic waste water released in the Versova Creek is now treated, the improvement in water quality is only marginal. The waters of Mahim, Thane and Ulhas creeks continued to show low concentration of Dissolved Oxygen with high levels of nutrients and chlorophyll.

In Kerala, in Veli (Thiruvananthapuram) the low pH values indicating high levels of acidity shows that pollution has not decreased so far.

In Andhra, low Dissolved Oxygen levels were continued to be found in the waters of Kakinada Canal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Some of the measures taken to reduce environmental pollution in coastal areas are:

Industries discharging their wastewater into coastal areas have been identified and directions have been issued with notices for setting up of requisite pollution control facilities.

Local bodies discharging domestic wastewater into coastal areas have also been persuaded for setting up of sewage treatment plants. Directions to such local bodies have also been issued through the concerned State Pollution Control Boards.